

# Information Bulletin



## ***Agriculture Street Landfill Voluntary Soil Removal Project February 5, 1999***

### **PROJECT STATUS**

Progress on portions of the undeveloped property of the Voluntary Soil Removal Project is still moving forward at a good pace. The community has expressed concerns that dust emissions are occurring on the undeveloped property. Air monitoring continues to show readings below the action level for additional dust control measures and well below the site specific action levels, for all contaminants of concern. The routes that are being used by the trucks on the undeveloped property are covered with a permeable mat and one foot of clean soil. Occasionally, truck traffic causes dust on these routes. This activity does not present a health threat. However, to address community concerns, EPA is performing additional dust control efforts.

Work will soon start on the lower portion of the undeveloped property located near St. Ferdinand, Press Street, and Industry Street. This property will be cleared of dense vegetation and graded to make sure proper drainage occurs. A permeable mat will be installed, and the property will be backfilled with one foot of clean soil and vegetated. This work is expected to be completed by March 1999. Please note, if EPA is unable to secure truck access across portions of the undeveloped property, routes for hauling debris from this area will likely go through your neighborhood. EPA will keep the community informed of any route changes.

A water main break occurred at the corner of Vision Drive and Press Street on January 29,

1999, and on Industry Street on February 2, 1999. Neither of these breaks were caused by EPA activities at the site. EPA met with representatives from the Sewerage and Water Board on January 29, 1999, to discuss and reaffirm the proper measures to follow when dealing with subsurface soils. Arrangements have been made to properly dispose of any excess soil that remains after repairs are completed.

The EPA will continue to maintain the highest levels of health and safety standards that protect the residents and workers in the neighborhood.

### **FOLLOW-UP EFFORTS IN THE COMMUNITY ON ACCESS AGREEMENTS**

During the past weeks, you probably saw representatives from EPA, the Corps of Engineers, IT Corporation, and Ecology and Environment in your community visiting either you or your neighbors. EPA is currently conducting a follow-up on the access letters that were mailed to property owners in November 1998, offering the opportunity to participate in the voluntary soil removal project. During these visits, residents were also offered free rodent control services even if they choose not to participate in the soil removal project. Visits from these representatives will be completed by the end of February. Once this effort is completed and all of the signed access agreements are reviewed, EPA will determine the best approach to handle these properties. EPA would like to start with the: (1) community center, (2) Press

Park town homes, and (3) Gordon Plaza subdivision. However, the order for working on these properties may be changed, as a result of signed access agreements received. Please contact Mr. Randy Macabitas of the U.S. Corps of Engineers at (504) 862-1849, if you have any questions on the access agreements.

## **DON'T HESITATE...PARTICIPATE!**

Are you hesitant to participate in the EPA's voluntary soil removal action? **DON'T BE.** Participating in this voluntary effort creates a healthier environment for you and your family, and the community. During removal activities, safety measures will be taken by EPA and its representatives to make sure residents and workers are not harmed by the site contaminants. Once completed, a healthier environment will exist.

**You own your property.  
The choice is yours.**

## **REMINDER . . .**

In addition to EPA's Outreach Office located in the community at 3221 Press Street, EPA also has a Resident Service Trailer located on the undeveloped property on the corner of Higgins Street and St. Ferdinand. The Resident Service Manager's office is at this location, and he is available to answer your questions concerning this project, rodent control, and access. Please feel free to stop by.

In December 1998, you received a package from EPA that contained material that would keep your Resident Action Guide updated. A refrigerator magnet was also included in this package, which listed new telephone numbers for this location. Remember to place this magnet on your refrigerator for easy access.

Keep in mind that if you have suggestions or ideas that you would like to see happen that will renew this project and community involvement, please call 1-800-533-3508, EPA's toll-free number, or one of the EPA representatives listed on the next page

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION...**

If you have any questions, please call EPA's toll-free number, 1-800-533-3508, or one of the following EPA representatives.

*Ursula Lennox*  
Remedial Project Manager  
EPA Region 6 (6SF-LP)  
1445 Ross Avenue

Dallas, Texas 75202-2733  
(214) 665-6743 or Toll-Free 1-800-533-3508

*Lon Biasco*  
On-Scene Coordinator  
U.S. EPA (6SF-RA)  
1445 Ross Avenue  
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*Janetta Coats*  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
EPA Region 6 (6SF-PO)  
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*Arnold Ondarza*  
Superfund Region 6 Ombudsman  
U.S. EPA, Region 6 (6SF)  
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(214) 665-6790 or 1-800-533-3508 (Toll Free)

*Dennis Alexander*  
Resident Service Manager  
Resident Service Trailer  
Corner of Higgins & St. Ferdinand  
(504) 460-1071

*Denise Batiste*  
EPA Community Outreach Office  
3221 Press Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70126  
(504) 944-6445

*Office Hours:*  
Monday: Noon - 6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
and by appointment.



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